

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 061453Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2265

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3842

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG

SUBJ: GDR FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO OSLO LEAVES OVERALL NEGATIVE
IMPRESSION

REFS (A) OSLO 3818, (B) BERLIN 6359

SUMMARY: GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER'S VISIT LAST WEEK TO OSLO
PRODUCED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE AND LEFT A GENERALLY NEGATIVE IMPRES-
SION. THE NORWEGIANS REJECTED HIS PROPOSAL FOR FORMALIZING
BILATERAL RELATIONS, CHALLENGED HIS DIATRIDE AGAINST THE FRG
AND LISTENED UNBELIEVINGLY TO HIS PRONOUNCEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE GDR. END SUMMARY

1. GDR FOREIGN MINISTER OSCAR FISCHER VISITED OSLO OFFICIALLY
JULY 26-28 RETURNING NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND'S
VISIT TO THE GDR IN JULY LAST YEAR. DURING HIS STAY THE GDR
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OFFICIAL WAS RECEIVED IN AUDIENCE BY KING OLAV, HELD POLITICAL

TALKS WITH FRYDENLUND AND MET WITH COMMERCE AND SHIPPING MINISTER HALLVARD BAKKE. FISCHER CALLED AT BERGEN BEFORE LEAVING NORWAY.

2. THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHARACTERIZED HIS TALKS WITH FISCHER AS "WITHOUT SUBSTANCE." THE EAST GERMANS OPENED ABRUPTLY BY SETTING A PROPOSAL BEFORE THE NORWEGIANS FOR AN AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR REGULARIZING AND EXPANDING BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE AGREEMENT CALLED FOR FORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND VISIT EXCHANGES BETWEEN GDR AND NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING UNGA SESSIONS, FISHERIES, HEALTH AND LEGAL AID. FISCHER SAID HE WOULD LIKE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY FOREIGN MINISTER, THOUGH HE DID NOT FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT NEED TO MAKE IT PUBLIC. THE NORWEGIANS WERE TAKEN ABACK BY UNEXPECTED GDR PROPOSAL, AND REJECTED IT. SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED AGAIN UNTIL FINAL DAY WHEN GDR OFFICIALS PROPOSED A COMMUNIQUE CONTAINING REFORMULATION OF SAME PROPOSAL. NORWEGIANS AGAIN TURNED IT DOWN.

3. ON BILATERAL RELATIONS BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THEIR TRADE HAD INCREASED. NORWEGIAN EXPORTS TO GDR HAVE GROWN SIX-FOLD SINCE 1970 WITH EXPANSION PARTICULARLY IN SHIP SALES; GDR EXPORTS TO NORWAY JUMPED FOUR TIMES IN SAME PERIOD. BOTH SIDES HOPED THEIR TRADE WOULD INCREASE BUT DID NOT EXPECT SUCH RAPID GROWTH IN COMING YEARS.

4. POLITICAL TALKS FOCUSED MAINLY ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. FISCHER GAVE LONG DISCOURSE ON PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, SAID CSCE RESULTS WERE AS GOOD AS COULD BE EXPECTED AND EMPHASIZED THAT NEXT YEARS BELGRADE MEETING SHOULD NOT SEEK TO CHANGE PROVISIONS OF FINAL HELSINKI ACT AS MEETING WOULD HAVE NO COMPETENCE FOR SUCH ACTION. HE MADE POINT THAT GDR HAD OPENED ITS DOORS TO JOURNALISTS WHO WERE ACCREDITED TO NEWSPAPERS AND WANTED TO ATTEND RECENT EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE IN BERLIN, THOUGH ADMITTEDLY CONFERENCE MEETINGS WERE CLOSED TO THEM. FRYDENLUND POINTED OUT NORWEGIANS HOPED NEXT YEAR'S BELGRADE MEETING WOULD EVALUATE HOW CSCE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN PRACTICE AND WOULD PRODUCE A FURTHER DEFINING AND AMPLIFICATION OF VARIOUS SUBJECT AREAS.

5. FISCHER REFERRED TO JUNE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN OSLO
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NOTING THAT COMMUNIQUE INDICATED IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING DETENTE POLICY. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WAS NORWAY'S POLICY BUT SAID HE CONSIDERED FRG ACTIONS IN BERLIN SHOULD GIVE CAUSE FOR REFLECTION IN THIS REGARD. TO ILLUSTRATE, HE SAID FRG HAD HELD ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE IN BERLIN AND HAD ESTABLISHED OTHER "NATIONAL FEDERATIONS" IN BERLIN WITH THE OBVIOUS INTENT TO KEEP GDR-FRG RELATIONS TENSE; THEIR ACTION ALSO, HE SAID, CAST DOUBT ON THE FOUR POWER BERLIN AGREEMENT. FRYDENLUND SAID NORWEGIANS SAW NO EFFECTIVE

ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTE POLICY AND FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT OSTPOLITIK INITIATIVE OF FRG BRANDT GOVERNMENT BE CONTINUED.

6. NORWAY'S AMBASSADOR TO GDR EGIL AMILE REFERRED TO BERLIN AND SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR NORWEGIANS TO SEE THE PROVOCATIONS FISCHER ATTRIBUTED TO FRG. HE REFERRED INSTEAD TO SHOOTING EPISODE THE DAY EARLIER WHERE EAST GERMAN POLICE HAD GUNNED DOWN TOURIST ON GDR BORDER, TO WHICH FISCHER GAVE SPECIOUS DEFENSE; FRYDENLUND TOLD GDR MINISTER NORWEGIANS CONSIDERED POLICE'S ACTION AN UNNECESSARY AND DRASTIC ACT WHICH MADE SMOOTH BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GDR DIFFICULT. FISCHER SEEMED PERPLEXED BY THE NORWEGIAN VIEWPOINT.

7. ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEW OF UPCOMING FRG ELECTION, FISCHER SAID HE EXPECTED COALITION WOULD WIN BY SMALL MARGIN AND THAT THIS OUTCOME WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO GDR.

8. FISCHER CONCLUDED OSLO PORTION VISIT WITH TV-PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE HE WAS MET WITH UNUSUALLY AGGRESSIVE QUESTIONING ABOUT DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN GDR AND CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF BERLIN WALL, TO WHICH MINISTER STRAIGHT-FACEDLY REPLIED ABOUT GDR SUPPORT OF UN DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS INTENTION, LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES, TO SECURE ITS INTERESTS AND BORDER AS IT SEES FIT.

9. COMMENT: FISCHER'S VISIT DID LITTLE TO ENHANCE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH OSLO. NORWEGIANS FOUND HIM HEAVY HANDED, UNREFINED AND INSENSITIVE. HIS ACERBIC REFERENCES TO THE FRG AND HIS SPECIOUS REPLIES TO NORWEGIAN CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SEEMED TO SERVE INSTEAD AS CONFIRMATION OF THEIR WORST SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE EAST GERMANS REGIME.
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